

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 10/749,762 Confirmation No.: 9125  
Applicant(s): Keith A. Etling  
Filed: December 31, 2003  
Art Unit: 3676  
Examiner: Alison K. Pickard  
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SEALING SURFACES

Docket No.: 038190/269125  
Customer No.: 00826

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 13, 2006

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated March 20, 2006 and concurrent with the filing of a request for continued examination (RCE), please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 3 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 9 of this paper and include an attached replacement sheet.

**Remarks** begin on page 10 of this paper.